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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Hydroelectric Station in  
 Rodope Mountains

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1. Bulgaria's largest power project is under construction in the Rhodope Mountains, near Batak Village.
  2. The construction work is supervised by Russian-Bulgarian V. Alekiev. He is called "chief engineer" but is much more; in fact, he is the Soviet delegate enjoying full power.
  3. Numerous small brooks carry a large quantity of water to the Maritsa River in spring and winter. Up to the present date all this water has been wasted and in the dry season there has been a great water shortage in the whole area. As a first step, during the past years, a large scale water reservoir called "Vasilj Kolaroff Reservoir" has been built in the Rhodope Mountains. This reservoir is by no means the only one in Bulgaria, for the Soviets have planned the construction of not less than 55 or 60 large scale reservoirs under the electrification project and nearly all have been built. Construction of the Vasilj Kolaroff Reservoir began in 1946 and was finished by 1951. Water collected here has been used since 1949 for the irrigation of the Plovdiv kolkhozes. A deep and narrow ravine was utilized so that a high dike was needed on one side only. The reservoir is situated 1,550 meters high and holds 65 million m<sup>3</sup> water. At present the water is used only for irrigation. The dike and reservoir workers were housed in the nearby forest in a number of log cabins. When the construction was finished these cabins were remodeled as recreation homes for the workers.
  4. Two more reservoirs are being built in connection with the Power Works project. The first, again, uses the natural layout of the ground in the immediate vicinity

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of Batak Village. It will hold 300 million m<sup>3</sup>. Here too, log cabins are erected for the workers. The second reservoir, still under construction, will be situated at the foot of the mountain, near the small town of Pazardzhik. This lies at the lowest level, while the original one lies at the highest. Thus all together these form three steps. The situation and construction of these reservoirs shows, even to a layman, that three power stations are to be constructed.

5. Near the Vasilj Kolaroff Reservoir a 40,000 kw/H power station is under construction. The power station is several kilometers from the reservoir. The water is conducted through underground tunnels to the power station and falls 4 meters per kilometer. Shortly before reaching the power station these tunnels swerve suddenly and the water is conducted through wide concrete pipes with a 400 meter fall to the turbines. The used water is conducted further to a reservoir near Batak, hence by a 680 meter fall it is conducted to the second power station; the capacity of this one is 96,000 kw/H. The twice used water then is conducted to the third Power Station which will have the smallest capacity of the three. Here the fall of the water before the turbines is 250 meters and the capacity 35,000 kw/H.
6. The water then will be conducted for irrigation purposes by means of a widely spread canal system, to the large plains lying at the foot of the Balkans.
7. The most difficult part of the construction is the building of all tunnels. The length of these (before and after the three power stations) is about 12 km. These tunnels are constructed with "windows" so that nearby brooks can also be conducted into the system, thus increasing greatly the amount of water.
8. The construction of tunnels and power stations was started only at the beginning of 1953. Severe cold caused great difficulties, since no stores and dwelling houses were yet available. They tried to mechanize the construction but Bulgarian industry is not yet up to such tasks. Several large machines have arrived from the USSR. In fact, even the Satellites had to furnish some. It is a known fact that, for instance, MAVAG (Hungarian State Iron Works) shipped compressors from Budapest. Further Hungarian shipments are expected.
9. The "Vasilj Kolaroff" project, the first step in this field should be completed by 1956. Since Bulgaria has not been prepared, either in the field of planning or construction, all blueprints were made in the USSR and the execution of these plans is a task of the Soviets. The USSR cannot furnish all necessary machinery, shipments of tools, again, is the task of the Peoples Democracies.
10. Up to the present the following types of machinery were shipped from the Satellite countries; their quantity, however, is not known:
  - Drilling and stone quarry machinery from eastern Germany
  - Loading trucks from Poland
  - Various motors and automobiles from Czechoslovakia
  - Compressors and pumps from Hungary.
11. On the whole all scheduled norms were achieved in the course of the construction.

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